

**CITY OF DEXTER
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
January 17, 2023**

The regular meeting of the City of Dexter Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:01 pm at 3515 Broad St.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners:

Becky Murillo – Present

Julie Knight – Present

Jamie Griffin – Present

Anne Marques – Absent

Melissa Messer – Present

Ron Miller – Present

Joanne Wagner – Present

Jeanette Frost – Present

Student Representatives:

Sadie Gehan – Present

Annalena Eisel – Present

Owen Biggert – Present

Others Present: Josh Tanghe, Assistant to the City Manager; Grace Whitney, Associate Planner; Terry Sharik, Resident (8134 Huron St.)

Attending Virtually: None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Griffin; seconded by Murillo to approve the minutes from December 20, 2022 as presented.

Unanimous Voice Vote

Motion Adopted

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Griffin; seconded by Knight to approve the agenda with the following amendment(s):

- None

Unanimous Voice Vote

Motion Adopted

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

None

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

A. CHAIR

B. COMMISSIONERS AND EX-OFFICIO

Member Griffin provided an update to Parks & Rec on City Council's decision to reconsider the renaming of First Street Park (Horseshoe Park) to Paul Cousins Park.

C. STAFF REPORT

Staff gave updates on the following items:

- Staff met with DTE regarding the lighting underneath the Main Street Bridge
- As mentioned by Member Griffin, City Council reconsidered the naming of First Street Park to Paul Cousins Park
- The Mill Creek Park North discussion due to staff not knowing the funding status of the DNR Spark Grant
 - Chair Murillo spoke with the robotics team who are still have interest in providing support for the Mill Creek Park North Playground project
- Under the “Parks and Recreation Goals/Objectives”, Member Miller had a concern regarding the wording of the item pertaining to bicycle usage in downtown
 - Amended to read “Reducing bicycle usage on the downtown sidewalks for pedestrian safety.”

NEW BUSINESS

A. CONSIDERATION OF: COMMUNITY PARK EXPRESSION SWINGS

The Parks and Recreation Commission considered the following related to the Community Park Expression Swings:

- Parks & Rec reviewed the latest quote from Sinclair, which included:
 - Two expression swings for different age groups and a frame
 - The delivery and installation of the swings
 - To reduce cost, staff plans to utilize the DPW to excavate the site, install the play borders, and restore the site. A third party will install the fiber for the play area.
- Members expressed a desire to move on the Community Park swings now as Ms. Swanson had made her donation a year prior
- Parks & Rec still plan to include a set of expression swings in Mill Creek Park North as a part of that project
- Parks & Rec wants to use half of Ms. Swanson's donation for Community Park and the other half for Mill Creek Park

Motion by Murillo; seconded by Griffin to recommend to City Council the installation of expressions swings in Community Park in an amount not to exceed \$20,500

Unanimous Voice Vote

Motion Adopted

B. DISCUSSION OF: EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

The Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the following related to the Easter Eggstravaganza:

- Staff provided information regarding last year's Easter Eggstravaganza (EE)
- Staff was curious if Parks & Rec would want to increase the fee to participate?
 - Keep it as \$2 per child; \$5 per family
- Parks & Rec discussed which format they would like to do for the EE:
 - The riddle only, the scramble only, or both
 - Members were interested in doing both this year
- Parks & Rec decided on the following for the Riddle Hunt:
 - Use only one egg for each park with a word on it rather than a letter per egg and having multiple eggs

- Make each riddle related to a specific park so people have to figure out which riddle belongs to which park
 - Making the Riddle Hunt more difficult so it is more geared toward older kids
 - Parks & Rec members will take turns making sure the eggs aren't tampered with
 - Will take place starting March 25th leading up to Easter
- Parks & Rec decided on the following for the Egg Scramble:
 - Will be on Saturday, April 8th in the morning
 - Staff will contact Dexter Crossing and the Dexter Lions regarding parking and crossing guards
 - Kids will be in different heats based on age group
- For egg stuffing, staff will reach out to the girl scouts and seniors
- Members of Parks & Rec will reach out to businesses for egg stuffer prizes
 - Possibly find something to hand out to the adults
- Staff will meet with Chair Murillo to look at the inventory for the EE

C. DISCUSSION OF: PARKS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROJECTS

The Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the following related to the Parks Capital Improvement Plan Projects:

- Member Griffin raised a question regarding the scoring of the CIP
 - This will be addressed as a part of next year's CIP
- Should items that Parks & Rec probably can't do need to be removed?
 - Staff mentioned that having some "wish list" items is not a bad thing
- Staff asked Parks & Rec if they would like to include an accessibility item as a part of the CIP taking into account the recommendations by OHM Advisors' Accessibility Audit of the City's parks system?
 - Staff will have an item drafted and included as a part of the next packet for review
- Member Griffin mentioned having the Community Survey questions be included as a part of the next packet that pertain to Parks & Rec

OLD BUSINESS

None

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Terry Sharik (8134 Huron St.) – Asked a question regarding the specific wood fiber used for playground surfacing

PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Murillo, seconded by Griffin to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm.

Unanimous Voice Vote
Motion Adopted

Josh Tanghe
Assistant to the City Manager